

ANTICIPATION AND AGILITY

Planning for Future Communities

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM
16 August 2022 - *ParkRoyal Parramatta*



Bartier Perry is proud to present our 2022 Local Government Forum on Tuesday 16 August at the ParkRoyal Parramatta.

Bringing together NSW local councils, we invite you to attend our half day event as you network and share ideas with your fellow local government colleagues.

We all understand that a key focus for local councils is planning for the future needs of their communities. With so much change over the past couple of years in the way we live, work and do business what will those future needs be? How can we ensure that our plans will minimise risk and maximise opportunities, all while remaining flexible enough to respond to sudden changes?

Our guest presenters The Hon. Rob Stokes MP and Shane Fitzsimmons AO ASFM will each provide their insights and our own Bartier Perry partners will explore topics including managing ill and injured workers, issues influencing the project development lifecycle, modern slavery, defamation and more.

We hope you can join us for this in-depth forum on the major issues facing local government, and approaches for successfully managing them.

Highlights include:



The Hon. Rob Stokes MP

Rob Stokes is the NSW Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport. He has been a Member of the NSW Parliament since 2007 and has served as Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Minister for Transport and Roads, Minister for Education, Minister for Environment, Minister for Heritage and Minister for the Central Coast.

Rob is an Honorary Fellow with Macquarie Law School, holds a double degree in arts and law from Macquarie University, a Masters of Science from the University of Oxford, and a PhD in planning law.



Shane Fitzsimmons AO ASFM, Commissioner of Resilience NSW

Shane Fitzsimmons was appointed as the inaugural Commissioner for Resilience NSW and Deputy Secretary, Emergency Management with the Department of Premier and Cabinet from 1 May 2020.

This appointment followed a distinguished career with the NSW Rural Fire Service of over 35 years, serving as both a volunteer and salaried member. He is currently the chair of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), the State Recovery Committee (SRC), Board of Commissioners (BOC), the National Emergency Medal Committee (NEMC) and the NSW Connectivity Innovation Network (CIN).

Feel free to extend this invitation to your council colleagues where appropriate.

PROGRAM

8.15am Registration

8.45am Welcome by Bartier Perry CEO Riana Steyn followed by the Opening address by The Hon. Rob Stokes MP.

9.45am Keynote presentation by Shane Fitzsimmons AO ASFM, Commissioner of Resilience NSW

10.30am Morning Tea

11.00am Concurrent sessions:

Current issues (or risks) influencing the project development cycle

Presenters: Dennis Loether & Melissa Potter

Councils are often involved in challenging projects when developing land. In this session, our presenters will look at planning issues and how to anticipate the possible risks.

They will consider the impacts of escalating costs, extended delays and the disproportionate allocation of risk.

From a property perspective, we will discuss solutions to the challenges councils face when investing in essential infrastructure as part of planning for future communities.

Part 1: Managing ill and injured workers – anticipating and managing the risks

Presenters: Linda Mackinlay & Sylvia Moses

Our workplace law & culture experts will examine the matrix of legal obligations and options for local councils when managing ill and injured workers.

This session will explore recent relevant case decisions and consider how they may affect employee management in the future.

The rise and rise of ESG – how councils can strengthen their governance through open government and modern slavery awareness

Presenters: Norman Donato & Jason Sprague

We will review the progress that has been made under various open government initiatives and consider what lies ahead for local government, citizens and the business community including remaining agile as we move into an ever-increasing digital world.

Recent amendments to modern slavery legislation shine a spotlight on how local councils do business, by requiring them to undertake a review of their supply chains and undertake a form of modern slavery reporting. We will provide an overview of what local councils are required to do to comply and look at common concerns about how and what to report.

11.50am Concurrent sessions:

Modern approaches to resolving construction and property disputes in and out of court

Presenters: David Creais, Sharon Levy & Rob Kalde

Our team will outline the circumstances in which a third party may lodge a caveat on the title to notify that party's stake in the project. Where a caveat has been lodged without the party having a sufficient interest, we will address the judicial and administrative actions council can take.

We will widen the examination to look at construction disputes more generally, and explore dispute mechanisms that provide an alternative to lengthy and expensive court proceedings in a legal system recovering from pandemic hangover.

Part 2: Managing ill and injured workers – anticipating and managing the risks

Presenter: Mick Franco

Workers compensation practice head Mick Franco will look at issues for ill and injured workers including the obligation to provide suitable employment.

Practical examples will be used to explore the importance of effective communication and the problems that can arise when the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is up to.

Free speech... or is it? The defamation minefield for local council

Presenters: Adam Cutri, Jennifer Shaw & David de Mestre

The recent Federal election, coupled with heightened media interests in politics, has seen an increase in proceedings for defamation.

In this session our presenters will provide tips to avoid being on the receiving end of a Concerns Notice or, worse, a defamation lawsuit. We also look at some real-life examples of where it's all gone pear shaped.

12.35pm Lunch

1.30pm Conference concludes

Venue

ParkRoyal Parramatta – 30 Phillip Street Parramatta

Cost

Free of charge

Parking

Limited \$30 parking - at the hotel.

Secure Parking - Eat Street Car Park located nearby.

Register here

To book visit <https://www.bartier.com.au/insights/events/local-government-forum-2022/>

RSVP by 5 August unless the event is booked out prior.